



OCTOBER 22, 2023

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Mailing Address:
74-109 Larrea St.
Palm Desert, CA.92260
Tel: (760) 568-9901
or: (760) 880-5869

- Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)
- Deacon Euthym
Kontaxis, M.D.

Holy Communion
Order

- 1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER



PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

EPISTLES - Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had

commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that

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he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying,

"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: 1) **Entrance hymn:** *"Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord by His mighty arm, has created a dominion. He has conquered death by death and become the Firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of Hades, and has granted the world great mercy."/* Ευφραίνεσθω τα ουράνια...

2) *"A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheepfold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high and riches through poverty. Averkios, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls."/* Κανόνα πίστεως και εικόνα πραότητος...

3) *"For their struggles, O Lord, Your martyrs received the crowns of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might they defeated the tyrants. They also crushed the arrogance of demons. By their intercession, O Christ our God, save our souls."/* Οι Μάρτυρές Σου Κύριε...

4) *"Since you are a deliverer of captives..."* [Hymn of St. George]/ Ως των αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής...

5) **Kontakion:** *"Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In Your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten Your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for You unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor You."/* Προστασία των Χριστιανών...

EVEN DEMONS KNOW THAT CHRIST IS GOD!

We must keep in mind that the Bible is not simply a book. It is the Word of God, Who is a Person — Jesus Christ! Knowing the words of the Bible is not everything that is needed — even demons know the words -- and, as we learn from today's Gospel passage, they know that Christ is God. Indeed, knowing Christ, the Word of God, is most important. Rejecting evil and joining with Christ is the key to our salvation. In Christ, we come to know that everything in the Bible is true.

Many of our saints have related their experiences with angels and demons. Demons are fallen angels, because they have rejected God and they hate those who do love God. From the lives of our saints, we learn that demons influence our lives in one of two ways. When we grow close to Christ, they tempt us with pride, deluding us to believe that we are truly holy and they tempt us to condemn others. When we give in to their temptations, we are prey to other demons, such as demons of anger, depression, addiction, greed, lust, which can only be conquered when we turn to Christ.

Regardless of whether demon-possession is experienced in dramatic ways, as in the case of today's Gospel passage, or in subtle ways, as is common with people entangled in various vices, our only hope is in the power of Christ. That Christ is our only hope is proclaimed by our Church through the prayers that are read for us at the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. +FR. THEODORE

Πρέπει να το σημειώσουμε ότι η Αγία Γραφή δεν είναι απλώς ένα βιβλίο. Είναι ο Λόγος του Θεού, ο Οποίος είναι ο Ιησούς Χριστός! Το να γνωρίζουμε τα λόγια της Αγίας Γραφής δεν είναι το παν...ακόμη και οι δαίμονες τα γνωρίζουν - και γνωρίζουν ότι ο Χριστός είναι ο Θεός. Γνωρίζοντας τον Λόγο του Θεού, ο Οποίος είναι ο Χριστός, είναι ακόμα πιο σημαντικό. Η απόρριψη του κακού και η ένωση με τον Χριστό είναι ο δρόμος προς τη σωτηρία των ψυχών μας. Εν Χριστώ, καταλαβαίνουμε ότι όλα της Αγίας Γραφής είναι αλήθεια.

Οι άγιοι μας έχουν γράψει για τις εμπειρίες τους με αγγέλους και δαίμονες. Οι δαίμονες είναι
Συνέχεια στην επόμενη σελίδα-- -->

άγγελοι που έχουν απορρίψει τον Θεό. Απορρίπτοντας τον Θεό, μισούν όσους αγαπούν τον Θεό. Από τη ζωή των αγίων μας, μαθαίνουμε ότι οι δαίμονες επηρεάζουν τη ζωή μας με έναν από τους δύο τρόπους. Όταν γνωρίζουμε τον Χριστό, μας δελεάζουν με υπερηφάνεια, μέχρι που να πιστεύουμε ότι είμαστε άγιοι άνθρωποι και μας βάζουν σε πειρασμό να καταδικάσουμε τους άλλους. Όταν πέφτουμε σε πειρασμούς, άλλοι δαίμονες μας ενοχλούν επίσης, όπως οι δαίμονες του θυμού, της κατάθλιψης, του εθισμού, της πλεονεξίας, και άλλα, που μπορούν να αφαιρεθούν μόνο με τη δύναμη του Χριστού.

Ανεξάρτητα από το εάν η δαιμονοποίηση βιώνεται με δραματικούς τρόπους, όπως στην περίπτωση της σημερινής περικοπής του Ευαγγελίου, ή με «λειπούς» τρόπους, όπως συνηθίζεται με ανθρώπους που είναι μπλεγμένοι σε διάφορες αμαρτίες, η μόνη μας ελπίδα είναι στη δύναμη του Χριστού. Ότι ο Χριστός είναι η μόνη μας ελπίδα διακηρύσσεται από την Εκκλησία μας δια μέσων των ευχών που διαβάζονται για εμάς κατά το Μυστήριο του Αγίου Βαπτίσματος. + Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, October 23rdST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.
Philoptochos General Members Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 24th.....Bible Study – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 26th.....ST. DEMETRIOS THE GREAT MARTYR
Orthros-8:30 a.m./Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 28th.....ST. GEORGE FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT - 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
(lunch included)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Today is designated as “**Sunday School ‘Bring a Friend Sunday’ and Pumpkin Painting Pizza Party!**” All children, along with parents and grandparents, are welcome to join in for today’s program. See the enclosed flyer.
- **OCTOBER SPIRITUAL RENEWAL--** **Our Adult Bible Study sessions originally scheduled for every Wednesday evenings beginning on October 11th has had to be rescheduled.** Those who are unable to attend our Tuesday morning Adult Bible Study and are interested in joining an evening or weekend Adult Bible Study are asked to send their email addresses to our parish office at pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com, so that a Zoom link can be provided. Please indicate a preference as to day and evening time that would be convenient. Those who would like to attend an evening or weekend Bible Study in person, inform Fr. Ted accordingly...Final Notice!
- For those who have not yet signed up for this coming Saturday’s **St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat on October 28th, please see Fr. Ted today.** Note the enclosed flyer.
- **PHILOPTOCHOS** - Tomorrow is the **Philoptochos General Members meeting** at our parish hall at **11:30 a.m.** Lunch will also be provided.

Mark Saturday and Sunday, November 11th and 12th on your calendars! November 11th is the **Philoptochos Welcome Back Cocktail Party** beginning at **4:00 p.m.** -- and November 12th is the **Philoptochos “Paint & Sip” Party**, beginning at **12 noon.** See the enclosed flyers.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 291/2023

Archepiscopal Encyclical For National Leadership 100 Sunday

October 22, 2023

Unto the...entirety of the Christ-loving Plenitude of the Sacred Archdiocese of America:

For God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this Sunday closest to the Feastday of Saint Iakovos, the Brother of God and First Bishop of Jerusalem, we are celebrating the remarkable Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund. Its creative and prescient works, as a permanent endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism in our Archdiocese, have had enormous impact on our Church, especially Hellenic College and Holy Cross. In this observance of Leadership 100's amazing role in our Church, we also remember and recognize its eponymous inspiration, the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory.

Throughout the decades, Leadership 100 has cheerfully and responsibly given to meet the needs of the Church and to enhance the National Ministries of our Sacred Archdiocese of America. Since its very first grants in 1989, Leadership 100 has bestowed over seventy million dollars on these ministries, the majority going to the education of our clergy. The kindness and generosity of Leadership 100's members is a sign of their faith in God, commitment to the Gospel, and dedication to the success of our apostolic mission.

Let this Sunday, October 22, the eve of the Feast of Saint Iakovos, be a day when all of us reflect and remember the great benefactors of Leadership 100 who have passed on to eternal rest. And should your parish have a member of this wonderful movement, I encourage you to organize a time and place to hear from them and learn more about its life-changing activities. Leadership 100 has blessed the Church in so many ways. May its members always receive from the Lord all things bright and beautiful, which bring joy, gladness, and the cheerfulness that come from generous hearts.

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

Note:

To be read in every parish on Sunday, October 22, 2023



**“THE
THEOTOKOS,
THE MOTHER
OF THE LIGHT”**



Father Josiah Trenham is the Pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church, Riverside, California and he is the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications.

**ST. GEORGE
FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT
Saturday, October 28, 2023
Father Josiah Trenham, Guest Speaker
10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260
At will donation: \$15.00 (Lunch included)**

R.S.V. P. to: St. George Fall Spiritual Retreat:
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
74-109 Larrea St.

Palm Desert, California 92260

Telephone; (760) 568-9901/ email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com

Or, contact Fr. Theodore Pantels, pastor, St. George Greek Orthodox Church:
Telephone: (760) 880-5869